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Martin D. Gross [SBN 147426] email: Martin'a lawgross com LAW OFFICES OF MARTIN D. GROSS 2001 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 205 Santa Monica, CA 90403 Tel: 310-453-8320 Fax: 310-861-1359 Attorneys for Plaintiffs MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successors-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR., Deceased 7

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO - SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER

MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successors-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER. SR., Deceased,

#### Plaintiffs,

ν.

VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No .:

# CIVDS1502899

#### COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DEATH

- Negligence 1.
- Negligence Per Se Violation of 2. California Vehicle Code § 22350
- Negligence Per Se Violation of California Vehicle Code § 22504(a)

#### DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COME NOW the Plaintiffs, MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successors-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR., Deceased, by and through their attorneys of record, Law Offices of Martin D. Gross, and for causes of action against Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR: TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., a Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO – S	IE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER
11	MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successors-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER,	Case No.:  COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR
12	SR., Deceased,	WRONGFUL DEATH
13	Plaintiffs,	<ol> <li>Negligence</li> <li>Negligence Per Se – Violation of</li> </ol>
14	v.	California <i>Vehicle Code</i> § 22350 3. Negligence Per Se – Violation of
15 16 17	VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A	California Vehicle Code § 22504(a)  DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
18	Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin	
19 20	Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin	
21	Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,	
22	Defendants.	
23		
24	COME NOW the Plaintiffs, MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and	
25	as the Successors-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR., Deceased, by and through their attorneys of	
26	record, Law Offices of Martin D. Gross, and for causes of action against Defendants VICTOR	
27	VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV	
28	SERVICES, INC., a Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A	

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation, and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, alleges as follows:

## **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. At approximately 5:30 a.m. on Monday June 2, 2014 Dail Keiper, Sr. was a fare-paying passenger on a transit bus traveling in a northbound direction on the Ft. Irwin Truck By-Pass Road adjacent to Fort Irwin Road near its intersection with Paradise View Road (near Painted Rocks) just outside the Ft. Irwin National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Prior thereto, a Tractor-Trailer combination that had also been traveling in the same direction had stopped in the roadway at that location.
- 2. At said time and place the bus struck and rear-ended the stopped Tractor-Trailer combination causing fatal injuries to Plaintiffs' Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr. By this action, Mr. Keiper's widow, Margaret Keiper, and son, Dail Keiper, Jr., seek to recover damages for the injuries to and subsequent wrongful death of their beloved husband and father.

#### THE PARTIES

- 3. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff Margaret Keiper and Dail Keiper, Sr. [hereinafter alternatively referred to as "Dail Keiper, Sr." and/or as "Plaintiff's Decedent"] were lawfully married, held themselves out to the public as husband and wife and resided in the City of Barstow, County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- 4. At all times relevant to this action Plaintiff Dail Keiper, Jr. was the natural child of Plaintiff Margaret Keiper and Dail Keiper, Sr. and he resided in the City of Barstow, County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- 5. The Plaintiff's are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Victor Valley Transit District [hereinafter referred to as "VICTOR VALLEY"] was a public entity with its headquarters located at 17150

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Smoketree Street, Hesperia, CA 92345. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant VICTOR VALLEY was operating transit buses including, but not limited to the transit bus involved in the accident out of which this action arises, as a Common Carrier in the County of San Bernardino, State of California and was and presently is doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.

- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 6. allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Dinorah Aguilar [hereinafter referred to as "AGUILAR"] was a resident of the County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 7. allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Veolia Transportation Services, Inc., A Corporation [hereinafter referred to as "VEOLIA"] was a Corporation with its headquarters located at 720 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 300, Lombard, IL. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant VEOLIA was, and is, registered with the California Secretary of State's office and was, and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 8. allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Transdev Services, Inc., a Maryland Corporation [hereinafter referred to as "TRANSDEV"] was a Maryland Corporation with its headquarters located at 720 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 300, Lombard, IL. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant TRANSDEV was, and is, registered with the California Secretary of State's office and was, and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that TRANSDEV successor-in-interest to VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 9. allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Steven Kilty [hereinafter referred to as "KILTY"] was a resident of the State of Wisconsin. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant KILTY was,

and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.

- 10. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant FBN Transportation, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company [hereinafter referred to as "FBN TRANSPORTATION"] was, and is, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company with its headquarters located at 317 Washington Street, Athens, Wisconsin. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION was, and is, registered with the California Secretary of State's office and was, and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Mardan Transportation LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company [hereinafter referred to as "MARDAN"] was a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company with its headquarters located at 513 Allen Street, Athens Wisconsin. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant MARDAN was, and is, registered with the California Secretary of State's office and was, and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- 12. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant Amston Supply, Inc. [hereinafter referred to as "AMSTON"] was a Wisconsin Corporation with its headquarters located at 1521 Waukesha Road, Caledonia, Wisconsin. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant AMSTON was, and is, registered with the California Secretary of State's office and was, and is, doing business in the County of San Bernardino, State of California.
- Defendant DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiffs who, therefore, sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believes and, based upon such information and belief, allege that each of said Defendants designated herein as a DOE is responsible, in some manner, for the events and happenings herein referred to, and caused injury and damages thereby

to the Plaintiffs as herein alleged.

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- At all times relevant to this action Defendants VICTOR VALLEY, AGUILAR, 14. TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, were the agents, servants, employees and joint venturers of each other and at all times herein mentioned each and all were acting within the course, scope and purpose of their respective agency, service, employment and joint venture relationships.
- 15. At all times relevant to this action Defendants KILTY, FBN TRANSPORTATION, MARDAN, AMSTON and DOES 51 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, were the agents, servants, employees and joint venturers of each other and at all times herein mentioned each and all were acting within the course, scope and purpose of their respective agency, service, employment and joint venture relationships.

## **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 16. allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant VICTOR VALLEY and DOES 1 through 5, inclusive, and each of them, were and are the owners of, or had a certain ownership interest in, a transit bus bearing California license plate no. 1358342 [hereinafter referred to as the "BUS"] which was being used as a Common Carrier and providing transportation to fare-paying passengers on June 2, 2014. including Plaintiffs' Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant VICTOR VALLEY had entered into a contract with Defendants TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 6 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, under which TRANSDEV and VEOLIA would provide its employee drivers to operate Defendant VICTOR VALLEY's transit buses including, but not limited to, the BUS.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 18. allege that Defendant AGUILAR was employed by Defendants TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 6 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, and was a Special Employee of Defendants VICTOR VALLEY and DOES 1 through 5, inclusive, and each of them, and was operating the BUS with the permission and consent of Defendants VICTOR VALLEY, TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 1

through 10, inclusive, and each of them, at the time of the accident out of which this action arises. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that Defendants AGUILAR, VICTOR VALLEY, TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, are directly and/or vicariously, and/or for other reasons set forth herein, liable for the actions, omissions and negligence of AGUILAR as alleged in this Complaint.

- 19. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendants MARDAN and DOES 51 through 55, inclusive, and each of them, were and are the owners of, or had an ownership interest in, a 2006 Volvo Tractor bearing Wisconsin license plate no. 53549W [hereinafter referred to as the "TRACTOR"].
- 20. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendants AMSTON and DOES 56 through 60, inclusive and each of them, were the owners of, or had an ownership interest in, a 2014 MNAC Trailer bearing Wisconsin license plate 674498 [hereinafter referred to as the "TRAILER"] loaded with an 11-ton HMMT tank.
- 21. The Plaintiff's are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at all times relevant to this action Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION had entered into one or more contracts with Defendants MARDEN, AMSTON and DOES 51 through 60, inclusive, and each of them, under which FBN TRANSPORTATION would provide its employee drivers to operate the TRACTOR and TRAILER [hereinafter referred to as the "TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION"].
- 22. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that Defendant KILTY was employed by Defendants FBN TRANSPORTATION and DOES 61 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, and was operating the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION with the permission and consent of Defendants FBN TRANSPORTATION, MARDEN, AMSTON and DOES 51 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, at the time of the accident out of which this action arises. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that Defendants FBN TRANSPORTATION, MARDEN, AMSTON and DOES 51 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, are directly and/or vicariously, and/or for other

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reasons set forth herein, liable for the actions, omissions and negligence of KILTY as alleged in this Complaint.

- 23. The Plaintiffs is informed and believes and, upon such information and belief, alleges that Defendants DOES 11 through 20, inclusive, are persons and/or entities who, at all relevant times, performed maintenance, repair, inspection, troubleshooting, and other services on and to the TRACTOR, including its component parts, prior to the date of the incident out of which this action arises and whose respective services were performed in a negligent or otherwise actionably improper manner such that they directly and/or proximately caused or contributed to the incident out of which this action arises and the resulting death of the Plaintiffs' Decedent.
- 24. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, upon such information and belief, allege that Defendants DOES 21 through 30, inclusive, and each of them, are unknown persons and/or entities who designed, manufactured, tested, sold, or otherwise supplied component parts and who are strictly liable for failure of the component parts of the TRACTOR and/or who were negligent in their design, manufacture, testing, inspecting, selling, supplying, and/or otherwise integrating and/or failing to warn of dangers of the component parts of the TRACTOR and/or who are liable for a breach of express and implied warranties of the TRACTOR's component parts that directly and/or proximately contributed to the incident out of which this action arises and the resulting death of the Plaintiffs' Decedent.
- The Plaintiffs is informed and believes and, upon such information and belief, alleges 25. that Defendants DOES 66 through 75, inclusive, are persons and/or entities who, at all relevant times, performed maintenance, repair, inspection, troubleshooting, and other services on and to the TRAILER, including its component parts, prior to the date of the incident out of which this action arises and whose respective services were performed in a negligent or otherwise actionably improper manner such that they directly and/or proximately caused or contributed to the incident out of which this action arises and the resulting death of the Plaintiffs' Decedent.
- 26. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, upon such information and belief, allege that Defendants DOES 76 through 85, inclusive, and each of them, are unknown persons and/or entities who designed, manufactured, tested, sold, or otherwise supplied component parts and who are strictly liable for failure of the component parts of the TRAILER and/or who were negligent in their design,

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manufacture, testing, inspecting, selling, supplying, and/or otherwise integrating and/or failing to warn of dangers of the component parts of the TRAILER and/or who are liable for a breach of express and implied warranties of the TRAILER's component parts that directly and/or proximately contributed to the incident out of which this action arises and the resulting death of the Plaintiffs' Decedent.

- 27. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that at the approximate hour of 5:00 a.m. on June 2, 2014 Defendant KILTY, was in the course and scope of his agency, service and employment by Defendants FBN TRANSPORTATION and DOES 61 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, and was operating the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION with the permission and consent of its owners Defendants FBN TRANSPORTATION, MARDEN, AMSTON and DOES 51 through 65, inclusive, and each of them. At said time and place Defendant KILTY brought the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION to a full and complete stop in a travel lane of the Ft. Irwin Truck By-Pass Road adjacent to Fort Irwin Road and Paradise View Road near Painted Rocks just outside the Ft. Irwin National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 28. allege that at the approximate hour of 5:00 a.m. on June 2, 2014 Defendant AGUILAR, was in the course and scope of her agency, service and employment by Defendants TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 6 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, and was operating the BUS as a Common Carrier with the permission and consent of its owners Defendants VICTOR VALLEY, TRANSDEV, VEOLIA and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each of them. At said time and place Dail Keiper, Sr. was a farepaying passenger on the BUS which was traveling in a northbound direction on the Ft. Irwin Truck By-Pass Road adjacent to Fort Irwin Road and Paradise View Road near Painted Rocks just outside the Ft. Irwin National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.
- At said time and place the BUS struck the stopped TRACTOR-TRAILER 29. COMBINATION. As a direct and proximate result of that impact Dail Keiper, Sr. to sustain blunt force traumatic injuries to his body including, but not limited to fractures of the skull, both clavicles, multiple right and left ribs, right tibia, right fibula, sternum, mandibular alveolar ridge, left side mandible and right second metacarpal as well as lacerations of the right chest wall, right lung, ascending aorta, liver

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and tongue, avulsion of the right lung as well as other undiagnosed injuries, all of which caused and contributed to his demise.

Plaintiffs complied with the California Government Code's claim filing requirements by 30. timely serving their respective Claims for Money or Damages Against VICTOR VALLEY on July 24, 2014. Under cover of correspondence dated September 23, 2014 the Public Entity Risk Management Authority rejected those claims. At all times relevant hereto, California Government Code § 815.2(a) was in effect. That section states:

## § 815.2(a). Causes of injuries for which public entity liable.

(a) A public entity is liable for injury proximately caused by an act or omission of an employee of the public entity within the scope of his employment if the act or omission would, apart from this section, have given rise to a cause of action against that employee or his personal representative.

Plaintiffs bring this action as against Defendant VICTOR VALLEY pursuant thereto.

The Plaintiff allege that they are entitled to prejudgment interest pursuant to California 31. law including, but not limited to, California Civil Code § 3288 from the date of the incident on June 2, 2014, up to and including the date of judgment, according to proof.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE

[As Against Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive]

- The Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate herein by reference each and every allegation 32. set forth in the Nature of the Action, Paragraphs 1 through 2, inclusive, Parties, Paragraphs 3 through 15, inclusive, and General Allegations, Paragraphs 16 through 31, inclusive, and each of them as though fully set forth at this point.
- Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; 33. DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation, VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each

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- Defendants KILTY, FBN TRANSPORTATION and DOES 51 through 65, inclusive, 34. and each of them, have, and at all times herein had, a duty to use reasonable care with respect to the ownership, inspection, operation and maintenance of the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION and its component parts.
- Defendants MARDAN and DOES 51 through 55, inclusive, and each of them, have, and 35. at all times herein had, a duty to use reasonable care with respect to the ownership, inspection, operation and maintenance of the TRACTOR and its component parts.
- Defendants Defendant AMSTON and DOES 56 through 60, inclusive and each of them, 36. have, and at all times herein had, a duty to use reasonable care with respect to the ownership, inspection, operation and maintenance of the TRAILER and its component parts.
- On June 2, 2014, as a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of 37. Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company: AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr., the Plaintiffs have suffered the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance of their Decedent, all to their general and non-economic damages in an amount which is in excess of this Court's minimum jurisdictional amount and which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.
- As a further, direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of 38. Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR: TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin

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Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have lost the earnings, financial support, gifts, benefits and household services that their Decedent had previously and would have continued to provide to them had the incident of June 2, 2014, not occurred, all to their special and economic damages in an amount which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.

- As a further, direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of 39. Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have incurred funeral, mortuary and burial expenses in an amount which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.
- 40. The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, allege that prior to June 2, 2014 Defendant AGUILAR was not a careful, safe and prudent driver who did not follow or obey the California Vehicle Code or the Vehicle Codes of other states and who, in the course of her operation of vehicles in the course and scope of her agency, servitude, employment and/or joint venture relationship with Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each of them, as well as in the operation of her personal vehicles, had caused prior accidents and injuries to others.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 41. allege that prior to June 2, 2014 Defendant KILTY was not a careful, safe and prudent driver who did not follow or obey the California Vehicle Code or the Vehicle Codes of other states and who, in the

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course of his operation of vehicles in the course and scope of his agency, servitude, employment and/or joint venture relationship with Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION and DOES 61 through 65, inclusive, and each of them, as well as in the operation of his personal vehicles, had caused prior accidents and injuries to others.

- Prior to and at the time that the BUS struck and rear-ended the TRACTOR-TRAILER 42. COMBINATION on June 2, 2014 Defendants TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation and VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; and each of them, had constructive notice and actual knowledge that their continued agency, servitude, employment and/or joint venture relationship with Defendant AGUILAR and her continued permissive operation of their vehicles including, but not limited to, the BUS would endanger the safety and well-being of members of the general public including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr. Notwithstanding such notice and knowledge, and with conscious disregard for the safety of others, Defendants TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation and VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation, and each of them, ordered, directed, required, permitted and allowed Defendant AGUILAR to permissibly operate the BUS on public roads and highways thereby exposing members of the general public including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr., to great danger and the risk of injury from Defendant AGUILAR's continued permissive use and operation of the BUS. In doing the foregoing acts, and by ordering, directing, requiring, permitting and allowing Defendant AGUILAR to permissively use and operate the BUS, Defendants TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation and VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation, and each of them, acted with malice as defined by California Civil Code § 3288, with willful and wanton negligence and in conscious disregard of the safety and well-being of others including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr.. Such conduct qualifies as despicable conduct as that term is defined in California Civil Code § 3294, warranting the imposition of punitive or exemplary damages against Defendants TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation and VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation, and each of them, in order to set an example of them, and to dissuade them from future reckless and illegal conduct, in amounts according to proof at trial.
  - Prior to and at the time that the BUS struck and rear-ended the TRACTOR-TRAILER 43.

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COMBINATION on June 2, 2014 Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION had constructive notice and actual knowledge that its continued agency, servitude, employment and/or joint venture relationship with Defendant KILTY and his continued permissive operation of their vehicles including, but not limited to, the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION would endanger the safety and well-being of members of the general public including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr. Notwithstanding such notice and knowledge, and with conscious disregard for the safety of others, Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION ordered, directed, required, permitted and allowed Defendant KILTY to permissibly operate the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION on public roads and highways thereby exposing members of the general public including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr., to great danger and the risk of injury from Defendant KILTY's continued permissive use and operation of the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION. In doing the foregoing acts, and by ordering, directing, requiring, permitting and allowing Defendant KILTY to permissively use and operate the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION, Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION acted with malice as defined by California Civil Code § 3288, with willful and wanton negligence and in conscious disregard of the safety and well-being of others including, but not limited to, Dail Keiper, Sr.. Such conduct qualifies as despicable conduct as that term is defined in California Civil Code § 3294, warranting the imposition of punitive or exemplary damages against Defendant FBN TRANSPORTATION in order to set an example of them, and to dissuade them from future reckless and illegal conduct, in amounts according to proof at trial.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE PER SE Violation of California Vehicle Code § 22350

## [As Against Defendant DINORAH AGUILAR]

- 44. The Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate herein by reference each and every allegation set forth in the Nature of the Action, Paragraphs 1 through 2, inclusive, Parties, Paragraphs 3 through 15, inclusive, and General Allegations, Paragraphs 16 through 31, inclusive, and each of them, as though fully set forth at this point.
  - The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 45.

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allege that prior to and at the time of the incident on or about June 2, 2014, California Vehicle Code § 22350 was in effect. That Section states that:

#### 22350 - Basic Speed Law

No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

- Plaintiffs' Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr., was among the class of persons that California 46. Vehicle Code § 22350 was intended to protect.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 47. allege that Defendant AGUILAR violated the terms and provisions of California Vehicle Code § 22350 on June 2, 2014, when she operated the BUS at a speed greater than reasonable or prudent and without due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway and at a speed which endangered the safety or persons and property when the BUS struck and collided with the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION causing serious and, ultimately, fatal injuries to Dail Keiper, Sr.
- Dail Keiper, Sr. suffered blunt force traumatic injuries to his body including, but not 48. limited to fractures of the skull, both clavicles, multiple right and left ribs, right tibia, right fibula, sternum, mandibular alveolar ridge, left side mandible and right second metacarpal as well as lacerations of the right chest wall, right lung, ascending aorta, liver and tongue, avulsion of the right lung as well as other undiagnosed injuries, and, ultimately, died as a direct and proximate result of Defendant AGUILAR's violation of California Vehicle Code § 22350 and the traumatic injuries that he sustained when the BUS struck the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant AGUILAR's violation of California 49. Vehicle Code § 22350 on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr., the Plaintiffs have suffered the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance of their Decedent, all to their general and non-economic damages in an amount which is in excess of this Court's minimum jurisdictional amount and which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to

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California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.

- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant AGUILAR's violation of California 50. Vehicle Code § 22350 on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have lost the earnings, financial support, gifts, benefits and household services that their Decedent had previously and would have continued to provide to them had the incident of June 2, 2014, not occurred, all to their special and economic damages in an amount which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant AGUILAR's violation of California 51. Vehicle Code § 22350 on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have incurred funeral, mortuary and burial expenses in an amount which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE PER SE - Violation of California Vehicle Code § 22504(a)

# [As Against Defendant STEVEN KILTY]

- The Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate herein by reference each and every allegation set 52. forth in the Nature of the Action, Paragraphs 1 through 2, inclusive, Parties, Paragraphs 3 through 15, inclusive, and General Allegations, Paragraphs 16 through 31, inclusive, and each of them, as though fully set forth at this point.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, alleges that prior to and at the time of the incident on or about June 2, 2014, California Vehicle Code § 22504 (a) was in effect. That Section states that:

# 22504 - Unincorporated areas: Parking, stopping or leaving vehicle standing; Schoolbus stops

(a) Upon any highway in unincorporated areas, a person shall not stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the roadway when it is practicable to stop, park, or leave the vehicle off such portion of the highway, but in every event an unobstructed width of the highway opposite a standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles and a clear view of the stopped vehicle shall be available from a distance of 200 feet in each direction upon the highway....

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- 54. The Plaintiffs' Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr., was among the class of persons that California Vehicle Code § 22504(a) was intended to protect.
- The Plaintiffs are informed and believe and, based upon such information and belief, 55. allege that Defendant KILTY violated the terms and provisions of California Vehicle Code § 22504 on June 2, 2014, when he caused the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION to stop and park in the number two lane of the Ft. Irwin Truck By-Pass Road adjacent to Fort Irwin Road and Paradise View Road near Painted Rocks just outside the Ft. Irwin National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California where it was subsequently struck and rear-ended by the BUS causing serious and, ultimately, fatal injuries to Dail Keiper, Sr.
- Dail Keiper, Sr. suffered blunt force traumatic injuries to his body including, but not 56. limited to fractures of the skull, both clavicles, multiple right and left ribs, right tibia, right fibula, sternum, mandibular alveolar ridge, left side mandible and right second metacarpal as well as lacerations of the right chest wall, right lung, ascending aorta, liver and tongue, avulsion of the right lung as well as other undiagnosed injuries, and, ultimately, died as a direct and proximate result of Defendant KILTY's violation of California Vehicle Code § 22504(a) and the traumatic injuries that he sustained when the BUS struck the TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATION.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant KILTY's violation of California Vehicle 57. Code § 22504(a) on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, Dail Keiper, Sr., the Plaintiffs have suffered the loss of love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance of their Decedent, all to their general and non-economic damages in an amount which is in excess of this Court's minimum jurisdictional amount and which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant KILTY's violation of California Vehicle 58. Code § 22504(a) on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have lost the earnings, financial support, gifts, benefits and household services that their Decedent had previously and would have continued to provide to them had the incident of June 2, 2014, not occurred, all to their special and economic damages in an amount which will be stated

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according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant KILTY's violation of California Vehicle 59. Code § 22504(a) on June 2, 2014 and the consequent injuries and damages to, and death of, their Decedent, the Plaintiffs have incurred funeral, mortuary and burial expenses in an amount which will be stated according to proof at the time of trial, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.10.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successor-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR., Deceased, pray for judgment against Defendants VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, a Governmental entity; DINORAH AGUILAR; TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation; VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; STEVEN KILTY; FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; MARDAN TRANSPORTATION LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; AMSTON SUPPLY, INC., a Wisconsin Corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, jointly and/or severally, as follows:

- For non-economic or general damages for the wrongful death, including the loss of love, 1. companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance of Plaintiffs' Decedent, DAIL KEIPER, SR., according to proof;
- For economic damages for the wrongful death, including the loss of love, 2. companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance of Plaintiffs' Decedent, DAIL KEIPER, SR., according to proof;
- For all past funeral, mortuary, burial, and incidental expenses for Plaintiffs' Decedent 3. DAIL KEIPER, SR., according to proof;
- For punitive and exemplary damages on the First Cause of Action as against Defendants 4. TRANSDEV SERVICES, INC., A Maryland Corporation, VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC., A Corporation; and FBN TRANSPORTATION, LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company; and each of them, only, according to proof;
- For prejudgment interest from the date of the incident on June 2, 2014, to the date of 5.

Judgment, as provided by law; 2 For costs of litigation; and 6. 3 7. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper. 4 DATED: March 3, 2015 5 LAW OFFICES OF MARTIN D. GROSS 6 7 Martin D. Gross Attorneys for Plaintiff 8 MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., 9 Individually and as the Successor-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR. 10 11 12 **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY** 13 Plaintiffs MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., Individually and as the Successor-14 in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR. hereby demand a trial by jury to the full extent permitted by law. 15 16 DATED: March <u>3</u>, 2015 LAW OFFICES OF MARTIN D. GROSS 17 18 Martin D. Gross 19 Attorneys for Plaintiffs MARGARET KEIPER and DAIL KEIPER, JR., 20 Individually and as the Successor-in-Interest to DAIL KEIPER, SR. 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 18
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL